

U.S. Serial No. 10/763,035

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION AND
PETITION FOR ONE-MONTH TIME EXTENSION

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 6-25 were pending in this application. Assignee and the undersigned attorney thank Examiner Davis for her review of this patent application, the allowance of claims 18 and 19, and the indication that claims 8, 11-13, 17, and 23-25 contain allowable subject matter. Claims 1-4, 6, 14-16, 20, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,272,605 to *Johnstone*. Claims 1 and 2 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,931,689 to *Shine*.

Explanation of Claim Amendments

In the above amendment, claims 17 and 25 are cancelled; claims 1, 11, 20, 21, and 24 are amended; and new claim 26 is added. Claims 7, 9, 10, and 22 were previously withdrawn pursuant to an election of species requirement. However, based on the amendments to claims 1 and 21, Assignee submits that claims 1 and 21 are in condition for allowance, and thus that dependent claims 7, 9, 10, and 22 should now be examined and allowed for at least their dependencies from allowable claims 1 and 21. Assignee respectfully requests reconsideration of claims 1-4, 6-16, and 20-24 and consideration of new claim 26.

Claims 1-4, 6-10, and 14-16

Claim 1 is amended to include the limitation of allowable claim 17, and claim 17 is canceled. Thus, the Examiner should withdraw the rejections of claim 1, and claim 1 should be allowed. Inasmuch as claims 2-4, 6-10, and 14-16 depend from and thereby include the

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limitations of amended claim 1, claims 2-4, 6-10, and 14-16 should also be allowed for at least such dependencies.

Claims 11-13

Claim 11 is amended into independent form to incorporate the limitations of base claim 1 from which claim 11 previously depended. The Action indicated that claim 11 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form, and thus claim 11 should now be allowed.

Inasmuch as claims 12 and 13 depend from and thereby include the limitations of amended claim 11, claims 12 and 13 should also be allowed for at least such dependencies.

Claim 20

Claim 20 is amended to include the allowable subject matter previously recited in each of claims 17 and 25. Thus, the Examiner should withdraw the rejection of claim 20, and claim 20 should be allowed.

Claims 21-23

Claim 21 is amended to include the limitation of allowable claim 25, and claim 25 is canceled. Thus, the Examiner should withdraw the rejection of claim 21, and claim 21 should be allowed. Inasmuch as claims 22 and 23 depend from and thereby include the limitations of amended claim 21, claims 22 and 23 should also be allowed for at least such dependencies.

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Claims 24 and 26

Claim 24 is amended into independent form to incorporate the limitations of base claim 21 from which claim 24 previously depended. The Action indicated that claim 24 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form, and thus claim 24 should now be allowed.

Inasmuch as claim 26 depends from and thereby includes the limitations of amended claim 24, claim 26 should also be allowed for at least such dependency.

Information Disclosure Statement Previously Submitted

Prior to issuing another office action or notice of allowance in this application, Assignee respectfully requests that the Examiner send a signed acknowledgment of the Information Disclosure Statement submitted to the PTO by Assignee on August 26, 2004 and re-submitted by facsimile on January 26, 2006.

As set forth in the January 30, 2006 Interview Summary in Assignee's prior Amendment and Response (mailed April 6, 2006), the Examiner asked for the re-submission of Form PTO/SB/08a listing all of the cited references that were originally submitted August 26, 2004 and received by the PTO on August 30, 2006 because the Examiner could not locate the Form PTO/SB/08a. Assignee re-submitted this form by facsimile on January 26, 2006, and the Examiner indicated she would fully consider all of the art cited in the Information Disclosure Statement prior to issuing another office action. However, the Examiner did not send a signed form acknowledging that she considered this art with the Office Action mailed June 30, 2006. Accordingly, Assignee reiterates its request that the

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Examiner please do so as soon as possible and before the mailing of another office action or notice of allowance in this application.

Conclusion

The foregoing is submitted as a full and complete response to the Action mailed June 30, 2006. Assignee submits that claims 1-4, 6-16, 18-24, and 26 are in condition for allowance, and notice of allowance is respectfully requested. The preceding arguments in favor of patentability are advanced without prejudice to other bases of patentability. If the Examiner believes there are any issues that can be resolved via a telephone conference, or there are any informalities that can be corrected by an Examiner's amendment, please call Geoffrey Gavin at (404) 815-6046.

A credit card charge account authorization to cover the appropriate fees for the one-month time extension and the amendment of two claims into independent format is included. The undersigned attorney believes no other fees are due; however, the Commissioner is authorized to debit deposit account no. 11-0855 to the extent necessary if other fees are due.

Respectfully submitted,



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